

Columbia Missourian

73rd Year — No. 182

Good Morning! It's Friday, April 17, 1981

3 Sections — 18 Pages — 25 Cents

Officials see little hope for trapped miners

REDSTONE, Colo. (UPI) — Rescuers inched their way through a Colorado coal mine Thursday night in an effort to reach 15 men trapped more than a mile underground by a violent methane gas explosion, but preparations at the mine entrance indicated there was little hope they would be found alive.

A spokesman for the Pitkin County Sheriff's Department confirmed Thursday afternoon that body bags had been sent to the Dutch Creek No. 1 mine as a precaution. About 9 p.m., the sheriff's office asked the county coroner to report to the mine within two hours.

The estimated time for rescue crews to reach

the trapped miners was set back repeatedly during the day as workers encountered water at various levels of the shaft. Pumps that normally would have emptied the water from the mine were out of service because the explosion knocked out electrical power.

Doug Bowman, environmental control officer for Mid-Continent Coal and Coke Co., the mine operator, said one rescue crew progressed 600 feet (183 meters) in a four-hour shift Thursday evening.

Bowman said the blast apparently was triggered by a spark, possibly from high-voltage heavy equipment, touching off a pocket of

methane gas in the mine. The exact cause could not be determined because no one had been to the scene of the explosion since it occurred at 5:10 p.m. Wednesday.

"From the size of the explosion, the feeling now is that they hit some kind of pocket," Bowman said. "I'd say it happened in an instant. They never knew what happened."

Bowman said speculation was that the pocket of gas was caused by an "outburst," which occurs when more coal than is normally produced in the mining process pops out from the coal face.

Rescuer Lee McBride, 27, who has worked in

the mine for four years, was in the mine when the explosion occurred. He escaped injury when he felt a pressure change.

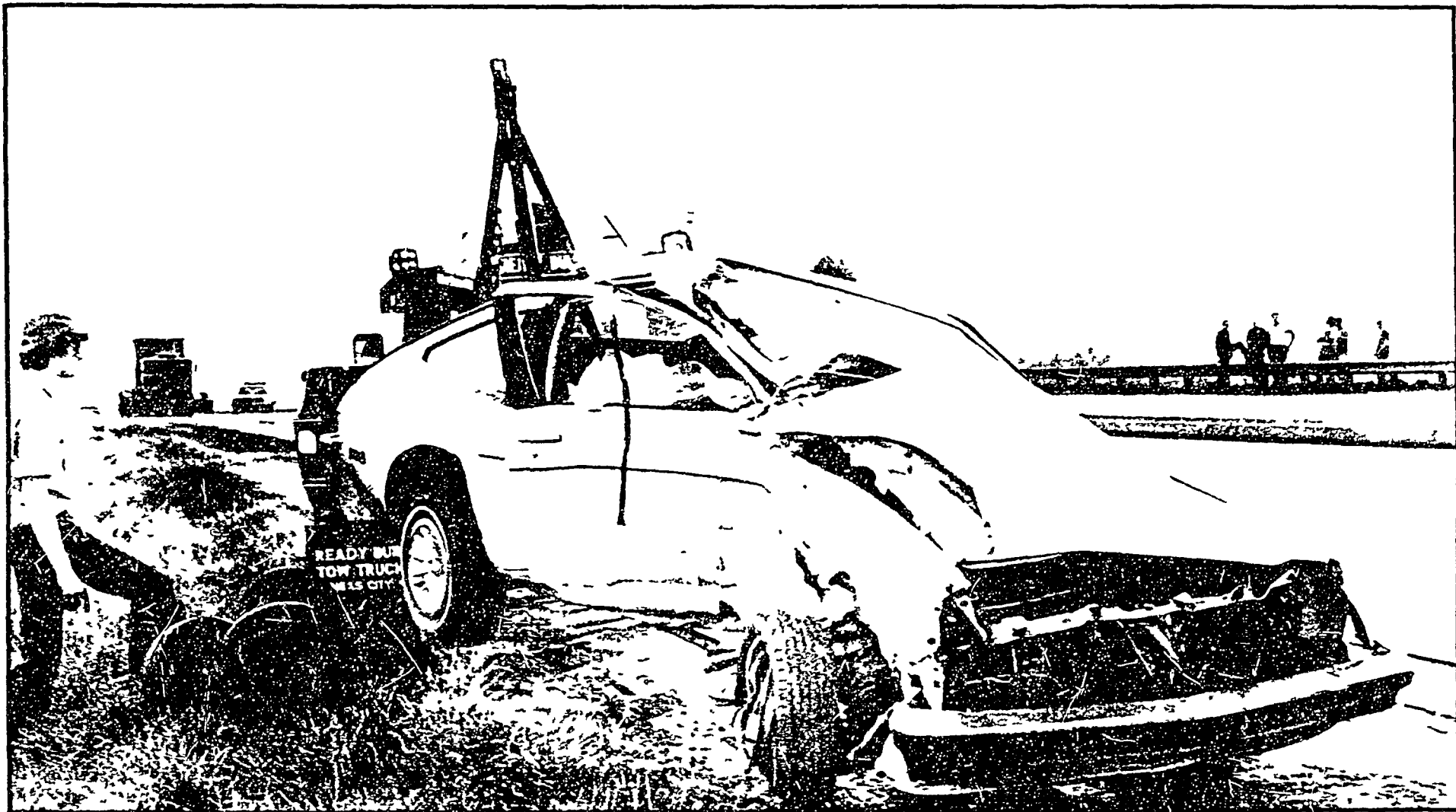
Lloyd Miller, supervisor of the U.S. Steel Mine at Somerset, Colo., brought a crew of nine to help in the rescue. A 40-year veteran miner, Miller said conditions in the tunnels were "not that bad, it's clear. There isn't any gas or dust. It's cool, cold in fact."

Despite predictions by mine officials that the missing miners probably were dead, some family members, friends and fellow coal miners remained outside the mine's gates in hopes of getting good news.

Pitkin County Deputy Sheriff Lubby Hernts confirmed that authorities had asked that body bags be delivered to the mine entrance but said no fatalities had been confirmed.

The blast occurred near the end of the day shift at the mine in the scenic Crystal River Valley of western Colorado. The explosion was so violent, officials held little hope for any survivors.

The trapped men, who ranged in age from 20 to 40, were working in two teams 1 1/2 miles (2.4 kilometers) deep inside the mine when the explosion occurred.



Ann Youngling

Traffic fatality

Columbian Elberta M. Eakin, 2212 Country Lane, was killed Thursday in a three-vehicle collision on Interstate 70 near the

West Boulevard exit. Two others were taken to University Hospital for treatment. (Story on Page 7A.)

Hitler was not aware of Hess' 'peace flight'

BONN, West Germany (UPI) — Rudolf Hess, Adolf Hitler's right-hand man, revealed Thursday that his mysterious World War II "peace mission" to Britain 40 years ago was made without the German Fuehrer's knowledge.

The ailing 86-year-old Hess, serving a life sentence in Berlin's Spandau Jail since being convicted at the 1947 Nuremberg Nazi war crime trials, also disclosed for the first time that he made three unsuccessful attempts to fly to Britain before finally parachuting into Scotland May 10, 1941.

Ever since, there has been speculation that he was on a secret mission to make a separate peace with Britain to clear the way for Germany's attack six weeks later on Russia. Hitler always denied the suggestion and, in a fit of rage, dismissed his deputy as mad.

Hess was captured on landing in Scotland and spent the rest of the war in the Tower of London. Last week, Hess, who is suffering from pneumonia, was transferred to a prison hospital.

His story was published for the first

time Thursday in an eight-page pamphlet, "Spandau Report," issued by an organization campaigning for his release. "Support Society for the Freedom of Rudolf Hess" is headed by his son, Wolf Ruediger Hess, 43, a Munich architect.

Hess' story is told in the form of letters to his wife Ilse in 1947, before being transferred to Spandau.

In them, he said the flight was so secret that "higher-ups" did not know about it, nor did he tell his wife. Hess did not mention Hitler by name, but by "higher-ups" he clearly meant Hitler.

He said he disguised the notes he made on maps for the flight in which he offered Britain peace in return for German dominance of Europe.

Hess wrote that while flying from Munich over the North Sea he feared he would have to return to Germany because there was no cloud cover to help him avoid British fighters.

He continued his flight, however, because he said he would have had to make a night landing that might have damaged his Messerschmitt 110.

In town today

4:30 p.m. High school baseball, Rock Bridge vs. Mexico at Hickman field, doubleheader. Admission \$1 for adults, 50 cents for junior high students.

7:30 p.m. Theater, "A Separate Peace," Gentry Studio Theatre on University campus. Tickets 50 cents. Limited seating.

7:30 p.m. Theater, "Runers of El-dritch," Fine Arts Building on Univer-

sity campus. Tickets \$3.50 for public, \$1.75 for students.

7:30 p.m. Play, "Mass," Firestone-Baars Chapel on Stephens College campus. Tickets \$3 for public, \$1.75 for students at Dorsey Street box office.

8:15 p.m. Recital, Esterhazy Quartet, Fine Arts Recital Hall on University campus. Free.

Before this couple moves to Arizona for retirement, they must sort through The 'Baggage of Life'

By Kathy Morrall
Missourian staff writer

Robert and Jane Habenstein are thinking of the thousands of books they have to sort through and the numerous drawers, closets and cupboards they have to empty.

They also are thinking about ending one lifestyle and starting another — a new lifestyle that, despite all the planning, has elements of uncertainty about it.

Before Habenstein, 66, retires from the University in September, he and his wife, 64, have to rid themselves of what he calls the "baggage of life" in preparation for their move to Arizona. The baggage is considerable. For 30 years, they have been buying things at auctions and garage sales.

"We come into this world with nothing and we leave with nothing, yet we spend most of our lives acquiring material possessions," says Habenstein, a professor in sociology.

"But there comes a time when we must divest ourselves of our baggage of life."

They'll keep some, however, to stock a shop in Tubac, Ariz., where they will open an art gallery and oriental and Navaho rug shop called East-West Galleries.

The Habensteins are like thousands of couples who face critical decisions at retirement time. Some are unprepared; others, like the Habensteins, have planned for this day.

Mrs. Habenstein, who suffers from arthritis, started visiting Arizona six years ago during the winter to see if she would like living there. Last fall, the Habensteins bought a townhouse in Green Valley, 15 miles from Tubac, for a retirement home.

But for Habenstein, a retirement home wasn't enough.

"I didn't want to just retire in Arizona," he says. "I had to look for a second career. I had thought of opening a book store, but with art and rugs, I'll have more excitement and a chance to travel around and buy inventory in the summer."

Auctions, garage sales and flea markets have been so much a part of his life that he has spent years studying people, especially the elderly, and how they function at auctions and garage sales.

Habenstein is a small, slight man with gray hair and glasses. He will not have to change his manner and dress to live in the Southwest. He dresses in chambray shirts and corduroys and sometimes wears a turquoise necklace.

Even his home reflects his love of the region and lifestyle it represents. It is a large two-story house constructed with buff and melon colored sandstone from southwest Missouri. The front of the house is dominated by windows that give the house an open and relaxed atmosphere.

Its large and airy rooms are filled with paintings and art objects. Most of the paintings are considered Southwestern art, and the sculptures and pottery on shelves and tables have an Indian flavor.

But early American pieces from Mrs. Habenstein's family are also present. In a back bedroom is the four-poster bed her father was born in. Next to it is his spindle cradle. Inside the cradle, dressed in white nightgowns, are Mrs. Habenstein's childhood dolls.

For a couple whose many possessions are rich in sentimental value, it's not easy to decide what to keep and what to sell.

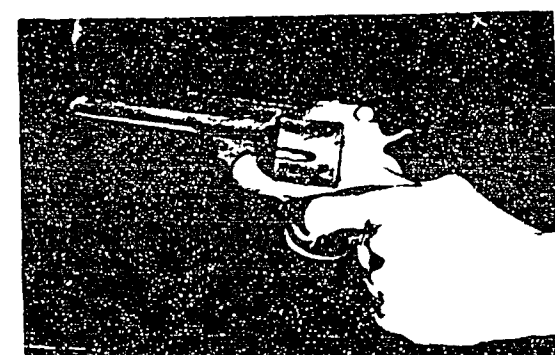
"We don't like to talk of getting rid of it,"

(See MOVING, Page 7A)



Jerome Delay

Guns easily obtainable here with proof of residency



Guns: To buy or not?

By Larry Allen and Judi Golding
Missourian staff writers

If John W. Hinckley, alleged assailant of President Reagan, had paid taxes in Boone County last year, he would have had no trouble buying a handgun in Columbia.

It is likely that local officials would have discovered neither the fact that he was under psychiatric care nor that he had once been arrested in Nashville, Tenn., and charged with carrying a weapon.

In Missouri, permits for handguns are issued only in the requester's home county. To buy a handgun from a Columbia dealer, Hinckley would have been required to show proof he was a Boone County resident.

Insight

Had Hinckley been able to do that, he might have started his search at Midway Arms Inc., the largest gun shop in the area, and the one with the most conspicuous advertisements.

Larry Potterfield, Midway Arms' 32-year-old owner, would have been Hinckley's first hurdle. "You are going to have to show evidence of where you live," Potterfield tells new customers. "The whole idea is that (the county) is where you should be known, and if there are any records of any type on you, even minor records, they've got them on you there."

Had Hinckley been able to show proof of resi-

dence — Potterfield usually requires a driver's license with a local address — he would have been given the form Sheriff Charles Foster needs to issue a permit.

But it would not have been the cheap Rohm handgun Hinckley was able to obtain in Texas. Potterfield does not carry the Rohm line.

"There are literally hundreds of thousands of them over here being used by sportsmen," Potterfield says of the German-made weapon he estimated would sell for between \$49 and \$99. "They use them to shoot beer cans and to shoot rabbits. They use them for plinking. They use them for leisure-time activity."

"We don't carry the gun in this store because they break pretty regularly, and we don't intend to service the things."

The least expensive handgun Potterfield carries is a \$120 Ruger he says will last five generations, maybe five centuries. Prices go up to the \$470 .44-caliber Magnum made famous by Clint Eastwood in the "Dirty Harry" movies.

Neither does Potterfield carry the "Devastator" brand of exploding ammunition Hinckley used. That bullet, filled with lead azide much like a blasting cap, was originally designed for police work.

"That has been on the market for a number of years," Potterfield says. "It has always been our contention basically that we not deal with the police marketplace. There are a lot of police in Columbia and the central Missouri area."

(See TAX, Page 8A)